The Saskatchewan
Water Appeal Board

Annual Report 2005–2006

Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board

Table of Contents

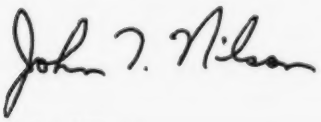
		Page
1.	Letters of Transmittal	2
2.	Chairperson's Comments	3
3.	Board Members	4
4.	Table No. 1 — Appeals/Hearings	5
5.	Board's Report	6
6.	Auditor's Report and Financial Statements	7–10
7.	Notes to the Financial Statements	11–12

Her Honour L. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
Government House
4607 Dewdney Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7

Dear Ms. Haverstock:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Annual Report for the Water Appeal Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



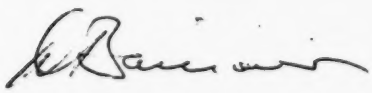
John Nilson
Minister, Department of Environment

Honourable John Nilson
Minister
Department of Environment
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Nilson:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Water Appeal Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Barisow
Chairperson

Chairperson's Comments

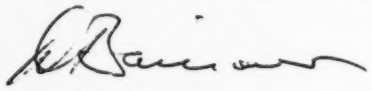
The Water Appeal Board Act came into force in 1984. The legislature, in establishing this process, intended to set up a complete procedure, independent of any right to apply to a superior court for review, in order to ensure that there would be a rapid and effective means to resolve disputes.

The decision to establish a specialized tribunal reflects the technical nature of questions that might be raised regarding the nature and extent of water and resource management problems. In this respect, the Water Appeal Board (WAB) plays an essential role to ensure the system is effective, while assuring a balance between conflicting interests. Appeal of decisions rendered by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (formerly Sask Water) to the WAB affords affected individuals an opportunity to present their position and assert their rights as quickly as possible.

The WAB now only receives and hears appeals on decisions and orders rendered specific to "drainage works" consequent to *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act* (2002). *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005* incorporated further amendments to the process of receiving and investigating complaints on drainage works. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of appeals received by the WAB. Activity of the WAB in 2005 was a reflection of the diminished number of appeals to be dealt with. The Board formally heard four appeals and rendered decisions. One appeal was withdrawn. One appeal hearing was adjourned *sine die,* pending the outcome of an appeal of a former WAB decision (April, 2004) to the Court of Queen's Bench. One remaining appeal is held in abeyance at the request of the appellant, pending efforts at getting regulatory approval for drainage works. No new appeals were received in 2005/2006.

In 2005 the WAB secretary initiated and maintains ongoing liaison with the Saskatchewan Archives Board to apply the Provincial Government's records management system to the WAB's records and information. This is compliant with *The Archives Act, 2004.*

Looking forward, for 2006 and into 2007, activity of the WAB will likely remain diminished, due to the insignificant number of outstanding appeals to be dealt with.



David G. Barisow
Chairperson

Board Members

Chairperson:	David G. Barisow 207 Williston Drive Regina, Saskatchewan S4X 2H3
Vice-Chairperson:	Gordon Young P.O. Box 233 Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan S0E 1H0
Member:	Donna Strudwick P.O. Box 501 Balgonie, Saskatchewan S0G 0E0
Member:	Tim Thiele P.O. Box 642 Lumsden, Saskatchewan S0G 3C0
Member:	Theodore (Ted) Wiensz Box 2, Site 7, RR #1 Swift Current, Saskatchewan S9H 3X7

Table No. 1

Appeals/Hearings	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Waiting to be heard at beginning of year	7	3	6	7	10
New appeals filed	0	5	9	8	12
Appeals heard	4	1	10	5*	11
Appeals withdrawn and/or dismissed	1	—	—	4	3
Appeals filed but not accepted	—	—	2	—	1
Appeals waiting to be heard at year end	2	7	3	6	7
Appeals ordered to be heard or re-heard from the Queen's Bench	—	—	—	—	—
Appeals re-heard per Queen's Bench Order	—	—	—	—	1
Board meetings	7	3	12	12	17
Decisions rendered	4	4	10	4	11
Decisions rendered on appeals re-heard per Queen's Bench Order	—	—	—	—	1
Decisions outstanding	—	—	3	3	2
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority decisions affirmed	4	4	10	4	8
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority decisions varied or overturned	—	—	—	—	3
Decisions appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench	—	2	—	1	3

*Also: 1 prehearing
1 day to commence an appeal hearing which concluded in June, 2003

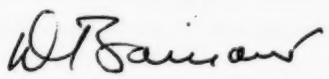
Board's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

The Water Appeal Board consists of five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Board is responsible for financial administration, administration of the funds and management of the assets.

The financial statements which follow have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Canada and have been approved by the Board. The Board uses internal controls and exercises its best judgement in order that the financial statements reflect fairly the financial position of the Board.

The financial statements have been examined by the Provincial Auditor whose report follows.



Regina, Saskatchewan
June 15, 2006

David G. Barisow
Chairperson

Water Appeal Board Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2006
Office of the Provincial Auditor
Regina, Saskatchewan

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Water Appeal Board as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of operations and net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. The Board's management is responsible for preparing these financial statements for Treasury Board's approval. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 26, 2006

Fred Wendel, CMA, CA
Provincial Auditor

Water Appeal Board
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31

	2006	2005
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	$ 26,744	$ 62,805
Accounts receivable	155	184
	26,899	62,989
Capital assets (Note 3)	—	702
	$ 26,899	$ 63,691
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 4,316	$ 875
Appellant deposits (Note 4)	400	1,400
	4,716	2,275
Net assets (Statement 2)	22,183	61,416
	$ 26,899	$ 63,691

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Water Appeal Board
Statement of Operations and Net Assets
For the Year Ended March 31

	2006	2005
Revenues:		
Transcript fees	$ —	$ 1,532
Interest	865	1,169
Appellant fees (Note 4)	800	800
Other	1,098	855
	2,763	4,356
Expenses:		
Board honoraria	8,180	5,218
Travel and sustenance	4,166	3,488
Secretarial services	13,608	19,320
Professional fees	3,892	1,259
Office supplies	2,854	3,335
Meeting room rental	1,993	1,095
Transcript fees	—	918
Office rental	4,180	3,425
Telephone	1,486	1,532
Amortization of capital assets	702	702
Accounting and printing services	455	455
Other	480	125
	41,996	40,872
(Deficit) for the year	(39,233)	(36,516)
Net assets, beginning of year	61,416	97,932
Net assets, end of year—to Statement 1	$ 22,183	$ 61,416

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Water Appeal Board
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended March 31

	2006	2005
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from appellants	$ —	$ 1,000
Receipts from customers	1,100	2,462
Interest received	892	1,205
Payments to board members for honoraria, travel and sustenance	(12,518)	(8,626)
Payments to appellants	(200)	—
Payments to suppliers	(25,335)	(33,799)
	(36,061)	(37,758)
Net (decrease) in cash	(36,061)	(37,758)
Cash, beginning of year	62,805	100,563
Cash, end of year	$ 26,744	$ 62,805

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Water Appeal Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
March 31, 2006

1. Authority

The Water Appeal Board (Board) was established under *The Water Appeal Board Act*, on July 1, 1984. The purpose of the Board is to hear and determine appeals made pursuant to *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*, 2005.

Ongoing operations of the Board are dependant on the funding from the Government of Saskatchewan.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The following accounting policies are considered significant.

a) Appellant fees

Appellant deposits are recognized as appellant fee revenue when the appeals have been heard and decided against the appellant.

b) Capital assets

Capital assets costing more than $500 are recorded at cost and amortized over their useful lives. Amortization of equipment commences in the year of acquisition and amortization is calculated on a straight-line basis over three years.

3. Capital Assets

	Cost		Accumulated Amortization		Net Book Value	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Equipment	$ 8,508	$ 8,508	$ 8,508	$ 7,806	$ 0	$ 702

4. Appellant Deposits

Appellant deposits are held by the Board until the appeals have been heard and the decisions rendered. Once the decisions have been rendered by the Board these deposits are dealt with in one of two manners:

i) The deposit is returned if the appellant has been successful in his/her appeal.

ii) The deposit is retained by the Board and recorded as income if the appellant is not successful in his/her appeal.

At year end, the Board had 2 appeals (2005 — 7 appeals) that are awaiting hearing and no appeals (2005 — 0 appeals) that are awaiting decision.

5. Financial Instruments

The Board's financial instruments include accounts receivable, accounts payable and appellant deposits. The fair value of these instruments approximates their carrying value due to the immediate or short-term nature of these financial instruments.

6. Related Party Transactions

These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Board is related to all Saskatchewan Crown agencies such as departments, corporations, boards and commissions under the common control of the Government of Saskatchewan. Also, the Board is related to non-Crown enterprises that the Government jointly controls or significantly influences.

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at the rates charged by those organizations and are settled on normal trade terms. These transactions, and amounts outstanding at year end, are as follows:

Category		2006	2005
Revenue	– Other	$ 1,098	$ 855
Expenses	– Office rental	4,180	3,425
	– Telephone	1,486	1,532
Accounts receivable		84	87
Accounts payable		97	98

The Board pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and the notes thereto.

7. Budget

The Board did not approve a budget for the year ended March 31, 2006.

Honoraria Paid to Board Members

Fiscal 2006

	04/05/05	06/09/05	10/20/05	11/10/05	03/31/06	TOTAL
D. Barisow	$822.50	$940.00	$1,057.50	$470.00	$470.00	$3,760.00
G. Young	$465.00	$310.00	$467.50	$310.00		$1,552.50
D. Strudwick	$310.00	$310.00	$310.00			$930.00
T. Thiele	$310.00		$310.00	$155.00		$775.00
T. Wiensz	$310.00		$387.50	$465.00		$1,162.50
						$0.00
	$2,217.50	$1,560.00	$2,532.50	$1,400.00	$470.00	$8,180.00

Travel and Sustenance

Fiscal 2006

	04/05/05	06/09/05	10/20/05	11/10/05	05/02/06	TOTAL
D. Barisow	$45.63	265.27	32.67	32.67		376.24
G. Young	$566.60	$306.64	$444.61	$439.61		$1,757.46
D. Strudwick	$75.00	$282.42	$63.76			$421.18
T. Thiele	$86.77		$77.76	$77.76		$242.29
T. Wiensz	$355.93		$344.30	$344.30		$1,044.53
Secretary		$267.95		$28.00	$28.00	$323.95
	$1,129.93	$1,122.28	$963.10	$922.34	$28.00	$4,165.65